(vii) The DMRC has started a special drive to check all the cantilever piers so far constructed and their designs are now being rechecked by M/s Shirish Patel and Associates, a well known Design Consultant. Based on their advice, necessary action will be taken to ensure that all the cantilever piers are safe.

(viii) The DMRC has also decided to get all the designs checked in future by the General Consultants or by an outside Consultancy. The Design Wing of DMRC is also being substantially strengthened.

(ix) The General Consultants are also being strengthened to ensure safety and quality of construction.

(x) DMRC has also initiated steps to revitalize the Tool Box Safety Drill to all the workers before commencement of the shift. DMRC has also started a crash course for three days in safety rules and regulations for every worker involved at the construction site. The entire work force will be covered within a period of 15 days.

Delay in opening of accounts in post offices for NREGP

*389. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the delay in opening the accounts of the workers of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in post offices of rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the necessary action proposed to be taken to avoid the delay; and

(c) the permanent set up for coordination between local post offices and staff of the Rural Development Department (RDD)?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no delay in opening the accounts of the workers of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in post offices of rural areas in the country, except in a few tribal/hilly areas of Thane, Nandurbar and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra.

(b) Following action has been taken by the Department of Posts to avoid any delay in opening the NREGP accounts:—

(i) Additional manpower is being provided in the post offices, wherever it is required.

(ii) Adequate supply of stationery, forms and passbooks is ensured in post offices.

(iii) A special provision has been made to open zero balance accounts for NREGP workers.

(iv) Coordination is being maintained at local level with officials of State Government to facilitate opening of NREGP accounts.

(c) A model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed by Ministry of Rural Development and Department of Posts, which has been circulated to all State Governments and Postal Circles for signing at their levels. The MoU provides for respective obligations of Postal Circles and State Governments to ensure smooth and timely payment to NREGP beneficiaries. The main features of the MoU are: (i) advance intimation of wage payment requirement for each post office by State Government officials (at least three days in advance of the issue of wage list) (ii) placing an advance deposit of one month wages with the Head Post Offices located in district Headquarters by State Government officials (iii) Regular joint coordination meetings at National, State and District levels to be held between Department of Posts and officials of Ministry of Rural Development of State Governments to sort out the issues pertaining to opening of NREGP accounts and payment of wages. At State level, Principal Secretary/Secretary, Rural Development convenes coordination meetings with Chief Postmaster General/Director Postal Services of respective Postal Circles on monthly basis or as and when required. The District Programme Coordinators of the districts convene monthly meetings at district level with Divisional Superintendents of Post Offices. Project Officers/Assistant Project Officers of State Governments at Block level convene a similar coordination meeting with Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices/Inspectors of Post Offices along with concerned Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters as and when required.

Decisions of G-8 conference on atomic energy

†*390. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new decisions have been taken about atomic energy in the conference of G-8 countries held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions; and

(c) the likely impact of these decisions on the atomic industry of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) At the L'Aquila Summit, the G-8 countries adopted a statement on non-proliferation. The Statement details the G-8 countries' positions in several areas such as obligations of NPT states, IAEA safeguards, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and the proliferation risks associated with enrichment and reprocessing items and technology.

(c) India has developed indigenous technology which can support the domestic nuclear energy programme. India's agreements for cooperation with international partners in peaceful uses of atomic energy provide for full international cooperation in the area of civil nuclear energy.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.